Cadre review of MES officers

2341. CHAUDHARY CHUNNI LAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cadre review of MES officers, initiated in 1988, is still pending approval/implementation;

(b) whether Pay Commission was informed by the Ministry of Defence in 1995 that second cadre review of MES officers was in advanced stage of finalisation;

(c) if so, the reasons for its non-finalisation for last four years;

(d) how the problem of stagnation in MES cadres is proposed to be redirected, in view of abnormal delay; and

(e) by which date the cadre review would be finalised and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) In view of the complicated nature of the case involving both military and civilian personnel, the cadre review involves examination of the service conditions of the military personnel as also the conditions of service of the civilian officers. Consequently finalisation of the Cadre Review has not yet been possible.

Production of SU-30 in the country

2342. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Economic Times dated the 8th December, 1998 under the caption, "Big financial gains seen in local production of SU-30";

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to produce SU-30 in the country and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasosn therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Preliminary discussions have been held with the Russian manufacturers of SU-30 aircraft for the phased manufacturing of SU-30 in India under licence. The final decision in the matter is yet to be taken.

Criticism of Tripura Government by an army official

2343. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a)whether an army official posted in Tripura has criticised the Tripura Government while talking to the press correspondents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the concerned official had consulted Government before making such a criticism; and

(d) the action taken by Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Certain information has been received from the State Government of Tripura recently. Further details are being collected.

Army Chief's statement regarding Sino-Indian border

2344. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement of the Chief of Army staff, reported in the Asian Age dated february 11, 1999, to the effect that undemarcated Sino-Indian border and Chinese continuing military assistance to India's neighbours had the potential for fuelling tensions or a conflict; and

(b) if so, how far Government agree with the apprehensions expressed by the Army Chief?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) While delivering a speech at MD University, Rohtak on 10.2.1999, the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) mentioned that India-China border was

undemarcated and that China continued to provide military assistance to some of our neighbours. He opined that because of these reasons, there was potential for fuelling tensions or a conflict between India and China. At the same time, he mentioned that on the plus side, Confidence Building Measures proved beneficial.

While the pronouncements of the COAS are based on facts, the Asian Age of the 11th February, 1999 reported only some portion of his speech out of context. In order to seek friendly, good-neighbourly and mutually beneficial relations with China, Government makes constant efforts based on the Pancheel. Further, both India and China are making efforts for improving the bilateral relations, including measures to enhance bilateral exchanges in various fields.

Modernisation of Jabalpur Vehicle Factory

2345. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to modernise the Defence Central Vehicle factory at Jabalpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government will give priority for order to this factory for Defence vehicles?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) To (c) Upgradation of technology and modernisation in Ordnance Factories is an ongoing process. Based on the need for induction of new systems, specific projects are undertaken for creating new facilities and also for augmentation of the existing facilities. With the induction of new generation of transport vehicles required by the Army in 2.5 Ton and 5/7.5 Ton pay load categories, proposals are under consideration at present for upgrading the facilities for manufacture of transmission systems, axle sub-assemblies, chassis and main cabin.

Orders are placed on Vehicle Factory Jabalpur for procurement of Vehicles for Defence keeping in view the production capacity of the factory as well as the induction programme.

वायुसेना की हवाई परिवहन प्रणाली का आधुनिकीकरण

2346. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ल:** क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या भारतीय वायु सेना की हवाई परिवहन प्रणाली के आधुनिकीकरण संबंधी कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने इस प्रयोजनार्थ कोई ठोस प्रणाली तैयार की है;

(ग) इस कार्य पर कितनी धनराशि के व्यय किए जाने की संभावना है तथा इसके कब तक पूरा होने की संभावना है;

(घ) विश्व की अन्य वायु सेनाओं की हवाई परिवहन प्रणाली की तुलना में भारतीय हवाई परिवहन प्रणाली की स्थिति कैसी है; और

(ङ) क्या सरकार ने इस प्रयोजनार्थ कुछ विदेशी विशेषज्ञों को आमंत्रित किया है?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री जार्ज फर्नान्डीज): (क) से (ग) भारतीय वायुसेना में वायु परिवहन प्रणाली का आधुनिकीकरण करना एक सतत् प्रक्रिया है। प्रचालनात्मक आवश्यकता के कारण यह जब कभी अपेक्षित होता है, किया जाता है।

(घ) भारतीय वायुसेना में वायु परिवहन सेवाएं अंतर्राष्ट्रीय नागर विमानन संघ, जिसका भारत एक अनुबंधित सदस्य है, के नियमों और विनियमों के अनुरूप हैं। तथापि, जहां कहीं आवश्यक होता है भारतीय वायुसेना की परिचालन आवश्यकताओं के अनुरूप आवश्यक परिवर्तन किए जाते हैं। विश्व में अन्य वायु सेनाओं द्वारा इसी प्रकार की पद्धति का अनुसरण किया जाता है।

(ङ) भारतीय वायुसेना के पास अपनी आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिए पर्याप्त विशेषज्ञता है। इसलिए भारत सरकार द्वारा किसी विदेशी विशेषज्ञ को आमंत्रित नहीं किया गया है।

Aircraft Carriers with Navy

2347. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 176, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th February, 1999 and state how many aircraft carriers the Indian Navy already possess and from which country